[*Translation*]

Revival of Units of Dalmia Nagar in Rohtas

59. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether two out of the four units of Dalmia Nagar In Rohtas district of Bihar have been revived; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government so far to revive the other two units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (FROF .P.J. KURIEN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Asbestos unit and the Vanaspati unit of M/s. Rohtas Industries Ltd., Dalmianagar, Bihar, have been revived and have commenced commercial production in February,1991 and July, 1991 respectively.

(b) The Cement unit is expected to start trial production from 25-11-91 and the Steel Foundry unit from 15-12-91.

[*English*]

Approach papers to Eighth Plan

60. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) when the first and second approach papers to the Eighth Five year Plan were approved by the Planning Commission;

(b) when these were considered by the National Development Council;

(c) when the third approach paper to the Eighth Plan is likely to be finalised and placed before parliament;

(d) when the final document of the Eighth Plan is likely to be ready; and

(e) the manner in which these approach papers Indicate improvement over the previous ones in the thrust areas of development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION(SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The first Draft Approach paper to the Eighth five Year Plan (1990-95) was approved by the Planning Commission in August, 1989. Subsequently, a fresh draft Approach paper was prepared and was approved by the Plaining Commission in February, 1990.

(b) The first Draft paper was not considered by the National Development Council as there was a change of Government at the Centre in November, 1989. The Second paper was approved by the N.D.C. in June, 1990.

(c) A directional paper, prepared in the context of the Eighth Five year Plan (1992-97) is scheduled to be placed before the next meeting of the National Development Council. On approval and endorsement by the N.D.C. the same would be presented to the parliament.

(d) The draft final document of the Eighth Plan is likely to be ready by March, 1992 for consideration by the National Development Council.

(e) The first Approach paper was prepared based on 6% average rate of growth of GDP. The Second Approach paper envisaged the following objectives:-

i) Strengthening federal structure,

ii) Decentralisation of authority,

iii) People's participation,

iv) Development of the rural sector,

v) Focus on women's role in economic activity, and

vi) Employment.

The directional paper of the Eighth Plan (1992-97) outlines specific objectives for infrastructure development (in the sectors of energy, transport and communication), for human development (full literary employment, population control, minimum health care and drinking water) and for agricultural development (extending green revolution to other parts of the country and creating agricultural surplus for export).

It envisages an annual average growth rate of 5.6% of GDP for the period 1992-97

Discussion over Priorities of Eighth Plan

61. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had discussions with the Deputy Chairman of the planning Commission on October 25, 1991 on the broad dimensions and priorities of Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the main points discussed in the meeting and the suggestions, if any, given by the Managing Director of IMF regarding the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISYER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANINING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the meeting , Deputy Chairman, planning Commission, apprised the Managing Director, IMF of the broad dimensions and priorities of the draft Eighth Plan. This included the various thrust areas such as infrastructure, human development, literacy, population, agriculture and employment generation, and policies for increased participation of private initiative in the infrastructure and industrial development and the steps taken to overcome Balance of payment crisis and attract foreign Investment. Managing Director of IMF expressed his appreciation for the recent policy changes and the plan priorities and strategies. The discussion was general, and no specific suggestions were made by the Managing director, IMF.

Prediction of Earth Quake

62. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Atomic Energy has undertaken any study with the objective of prediction of earthquake in the Himalayan Region.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the approximate expenditure involved therein; and

(d) whether the programme for this study is time-bound and if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (d). The Department of Atomic Energy has not undertaken any study with the objective of predicting earth quakes in the Himalayan region. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre of this Department is equipped with a medium aperture seismic array at Gauribidanur in Southern India, a small array at Delhi and a Radio Telemetered Regional Seismic Network near Bhatsa Dam in Western Maharashtra. These Seismic installations monitor continuously seismic activity from both natural earthquakes and underground explosions.